REMARKS

A number of claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The rejected claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and therefore the Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection be withdrawn.

A number of claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata (previously discussed) and of record in view of U.S. Published Patent Application US2002/0027954 with Singh as inventor that describes a method and device for reducing the average number of computations required for inverse discrete cosine transform (iDCT) by gathering individual block statistics during inverse quantization. At paragraph [0007], Singh classifies the input data blocks into a small number of classes based on the **location and frequency of sub-blocks (within the input data block) having non-zero valued DCT coefficients** where each data block falls into one of the classes. For each class, an iDCT algorithm that best exploits the pattern of non-zero sub-blocks of that class is then selected. Furthermore, at paragraph [0010], "the classification of the blocks is based on the location, within the 8 x 8 block, of the sub-blocks that contain non-zero DCT coefficients". Therefore, Singh characterizes each input data block based upon a predetermined pattern of sub-blocks having non-zero valued DCT coefficients. Based upon this characterization, an appropriate iDCT algorithm is selected for that particular data block based on the pattern of sub-blocks. Furthermore, since each DCT data block must be characterized in order to assign the appropriate iDCT algorithm, Singh requires a substantial commitment of computational resources.

In contrast to Singh, the invention as recited in claim 1 teaches determining an End of Block (EOB) length for the entire data block and then based upon the EOB length for the data block, a particular iDCT algorithm is selected that is optimized for that particular EOB length. In particular, claim 1 recites:

> "A method for executing inverse discrete cosine transform (iDCT) algorithms, comprising:
>
> a) examining the coefficients of a DCT block to determine an End of Block (EOB) length;
>
> b) selecting an iDCT algorithm according to the EOB length; and
>
> c) executing the selected iDCT algorithm"

Therefore, by relying upon the computationally efficient process of determining an EOB length for an entire data block, the invention as recited in claim 1 requires far less computational

resources as would be required by Singh (since Singh requires that each data block be subdivided into sub blocks each of which is then characterized based upon determining a pattern of non-zero DCT coefficients).

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that Singh does nothing to cure the admitted deficiencies of Murata and therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness type rejection of claim 1 and any claims dependent thereon.

Independent claims 4, 6, and 11 recite the same limitations as claim 1 albeit as a system and computer program and are believed therefore to also be allowable as are all claims dependent thereon.

In conclusion, the Applicants believe that none of the cited references taken singly in any combination anticipate or render any of the pending claims obvious and the Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

Michael J. Ferrazano
Reg. No. 44,105

P.O. Box 70250
Oakland, CA 94612-0250
Telephone: (650) 961-8300